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ABSTRACT

Land was at a premium during the first quarter of the 19th century in the newly incorporated city of Boston (Massachusetts). Among the first priorities was the development of a safer, healthier city. Boston's burial grounds were seriously overcrowded, and additional space was no longer available within the city limits. Attitudes about death and burial were changing significantly around this time. Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831, reflected these changing ideas about death, and at the same time addressed the problem of an overcrowded city. Located about four miles outside of Boston, Mount Auburn Cemetery provided ample space for burials amid a tranquil, natural setting. This lesson plan looks at cemeteries and attitudes toward death and burial. The lesson plan is divided into eight sections: (1) "About This Lesson"; (2) "Getting Started: Inquiry Question"; (3) "Setting the Stage: Historical Context"; (4) "Locating the Site: Maps" (Boston and Vicinity, 1830; Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1847); (5) "Determining the Facts: Readings" (Founding Vision: A 'Garden of Graves'; The Landscape: Art and Nature; A Place for the Living: Leisure, Learning and Mourning); (6) "Visual Evidence: Images" (Engraved Views of Copp's Hill, Boston, 1851; Engraved View of Lowell Lot, 1847; Engraved View of Stow Gardens, circa 1760; Engraved View of Gossler Lot, 1847; Stereographic View of Jones Lot, 1860s; Engraved View of Appleton Lot, 1847; Mount Auburn Guide Book, 1856); (7) "Putting It All Together: Activities" (Map Mania; Location Is Everything; Observing the Landscape); and (8) "Supplementary Resources". The lesson plan can be used in U.S. history, social studies, and geography courses in units on urbanization and reform movements. (BT)

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Mount Auburn Cemetery: A New American Landscape

(From James Smillie's Mount Auburn Illustrated in Finely Drawn Line Engravings. *Courtesy Mount Auburn Cemetery)*

The situation of Mount Auburn, near Boston, is one of great natural fitness for the objects to which it has been devoted.... In a few years, when the hand of taste shall have scattered among the trees, as it has already begun to do, enduring memorials of marble and granite, a landscape of the most picturesque character will be created. No place in the environs of our city will possess stronger attractions to the visitor.... [T]he human heart...seeks consolation in rearing emblems and monuments.... This can be fitly done, not in the tumultuous and harassing din of cities,...but amidst the quiet vendure of the field, under the broad and cheerful light of heaven,....

Jacob Bigelow, 1831[1]

The enduring memorials of which Jacob Bigelow so lyrically spoke were the monuments of people that would be buried in Mount Auburn Cemetery. The establishment of Mount Auburn Cemetery, about four miles outside of Boston, marked a major shift in the way Americans buried their dead. As the country's first large-scale designed landscape open to the public, it inspired many offspring--other rural cemeteries, the first public parks, and the first designed suburbs in the 19th century.

[1]From "A Discourse on the Burial of the Dead," a speech delivered by Jacob Bigelow to the Boston Society for the Promotion of Useful Knowledge in 1831.

This lesson is based on Mount Auburn Cemetery, one of the thousands of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

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About This Lesson

This lesson plan is based on the National Register of Historic Places registration file, "Mount Auburn Cemetery," and other documents related to the cemetery. It was produced in collaboration with the National Park Service Historic Landscape Initiative. Janet Heywood, Director of Interpretive Programs at Mount Auburn Cemetery, and Cathleen Lambert Breitkreutz, formerly Assistant Director of Interpretive Programs, wrote *Mount Auburn Cemetery: A New American Landscape*. Jean West, education consultant, and the Teaching with Historic Places staff edited the lesson. TwHP is sponsored, in part, by the Cultural Resources Training Initiative and Parks as Classrooms programs of the National Park Service. This lesson is one in a series that brings the important stories of historic places into classrooms across the country.

This lesson looks at cemeteries and attitudes towards death and burial. Teachers are advised to judge the emotional state and maturity level of their students before using these materials.

Where it fits into the curriculum

Topics: This lesson plan focuses on the development of new attitudes toward death, nature, and family life in the early 19th century, a time of rapidly growing urban centers and changing ideals. It can be used in U.S. history, social studies, and geography courses in units on urbanization and reform movements.

Time period: Early to mid 19th century

See attached Relevant United States History Standards for Grades 5-12

Objectives for students

1) To examine the historical causes that led to the founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery.

2) To describe the role that Mount Auburn cemetery played in early 19th-century leisure activities and the development of other rural cemeteries.

3) To analyze the landscape character of Mount Auburn Cemetery and explain how landscape qualities can affect visitors' emotions and feelings.

4) To compare the origin, design, and use of a cemetery or park in their own community with Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Materials for students

The materials listed below either can be used directly on the computer or can be printed out, photocopied, and distributed to students.

1) two maps of the site and surrounding region;

2) three readings about Mount Auburn's history and landscape design;

3) six drawings of Mount Auburn;

4) one photo of Mount Auburn.

Visiting the site

Mount Auburn Cemetery is located at the Cambridge-Watertown border, about 4 miles from downtown Boston and about one mile west of Harvard Square. The grounds are open every day of the year from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., with extended hours to 7:00 p.m. in the summer. The office is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday; and 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Saturdays. Mount Auburn remains an active cemetery and also offers a wide variety of tours and lectures throughout the year. For more information, contact the Friends of Mount Auburn Cemetery, 580 Mount Auburn Street, Cambridge, MA 02138.

United States History Standards for Grades 5-12
Mount Auburn Cemetery: A New American Landscape relates to the following National Standards for History:

Era 4: Expansion and Reform (1801-1861)

- Standard 2B- The student understands the first era of American urbanization.
- Standard 4B- The student understands how Americans strived to reform society and create a distinct culture.

Getting Started

Inquiry Question

What do the people in this engraving appear to be doing? What time period is represented?

How to Use the Inquiry Question

Begin each lesson by asking students to discuss possible answers to the inquiry question that accompanies the Getting Started image. To facilitate a whole class discussion, you may want to print the page and use it to make an overhead transparency. The purpose of the exercise is to engage students' interest in the lesson's topic by raising questions that can be answered as they complete the lesson.

Rather than serving merely as illustrations for the text, images are documents that play an integral role in helping students achieve the lesson's objectives.

To assist students in learning how to "read" visual materials, you may want to begin this section by having them complete the Photo Analysis Worksheet for one or more of the photos. The worksheet is appropriate for analyzing both historical and modern photographs and will help students develop a valuable skill.

Photo Analysis Worksheet

Step 1:

Examine the photograph for 10 seconds. How would you describe the photograph?

Step 2:

Divide the photograph into quadrants and study each section individually. What details--such as people, objects, activities--do you notice?

Step 3:

What other information--such as time period, location, season, reason photo was taken--can you gather from the photo?

Step 4:

How would you revise your first description of the photo using the information noted in Steps 2 and 3?

Step 5:

What questions do you have about the photograph? How might you find answers to these questions?

Setting the Stage

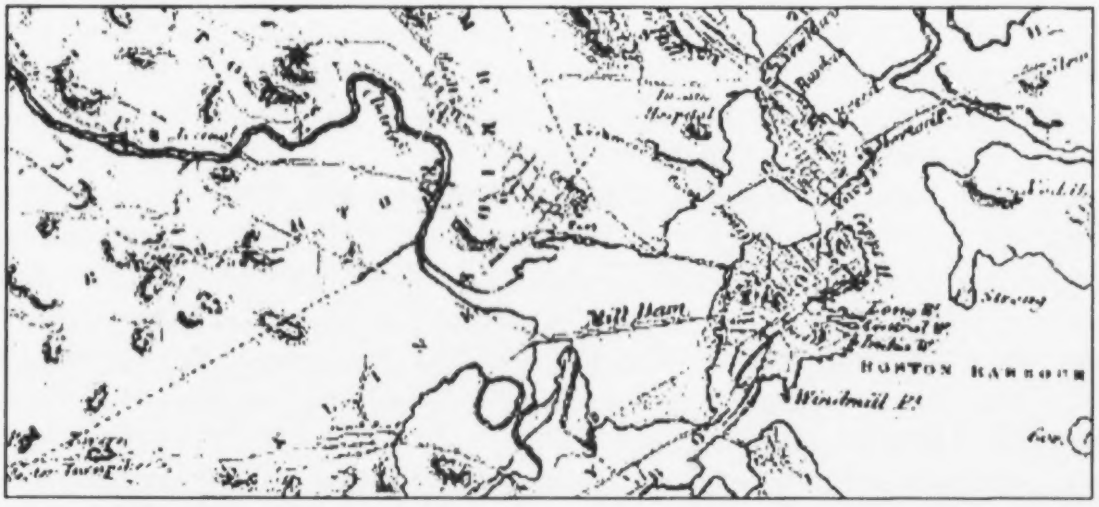
During the first quarter of the 19th century, Boston, Massachusetts, grew from a small village into a major commercial center. Land was at a premium in the newly incorporated city, which had used up much of its original peninsula and was in the process of filling adjacent areas for expansion. Among the first priorities was the development of a safer, healthier city. Boston's burial grounds were seriously overcrowded in the rapidly expanding city; additional space was no longer available within the city limits. Residents were concerned that the burial grounds were contaminating water supplies and that gases emanating from graves threatened public health.

Attitudes about death and burial were changing significantly around this time. In Boston the burial grounds were barren landscapes—crowded, poorly maintained, devoid of plantings, and with little sense of permanence—which reinforced old Calvinist teachings about the horrors of death. As Puritanism declined, and their notions about death were replaced by gentler ideas about mortality, New Englanders began to embrace melancholy and sentimentalism as desirable states of mind.

Mount Auburn Cemetery, founded in 1831, reflected these changing notions about death and at the same time addressed the problem of overcrowded city cemeteries. Located about four miles outside of Boston, Mount Auburn Cemetery provided ample space for burials amidst a tranquil, natural setting. As the country's first large-scale designed landscape open to the public, Mount Auburn attracted not only mourners, but city dwellers wanting to experience nature, students, and tourists as well.

Locating the Site

Map 1: Boston and vicinity, 1830.



(Adapted from a map published in 1830 by Abel Brown.)

Unlike earlier burial grounds in Boston, Mount Auburn Cemetery was founded in 1831 by Bostonians for their use, but it was located about four miles west of the city. It was the country's first large-scale designed landscape open to the public.

Questions for Map 1

1. Locate Boston. What limited the city's ability to expand?

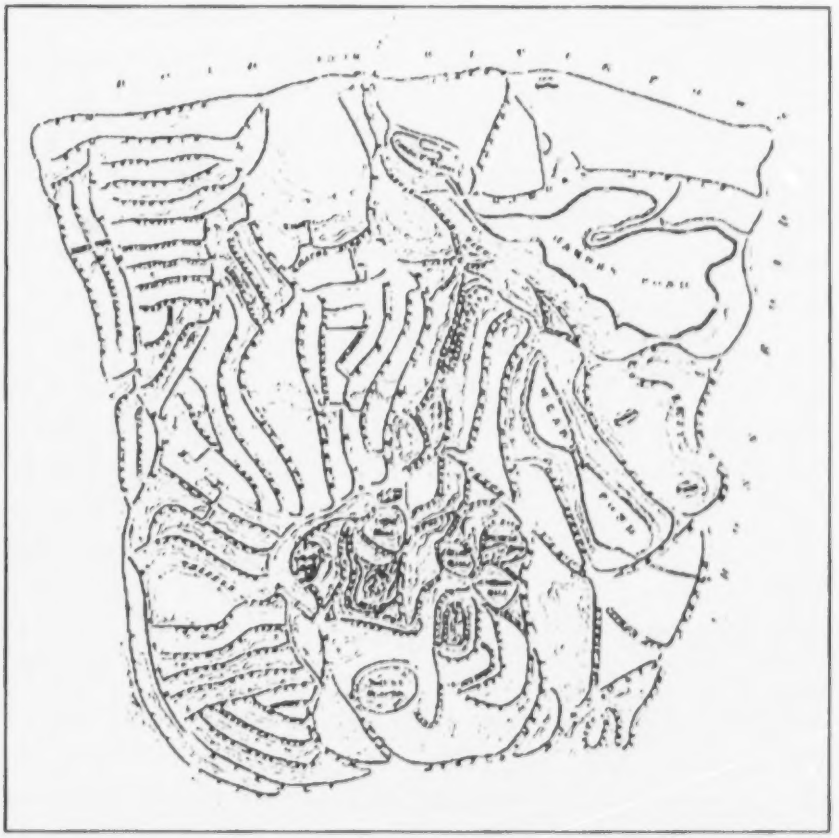
2. Find the location of Mount Auburn Cemetery (denoted by a black star) on this map drawn in 1830. Why did Bostonians need a cemetery outside of the city limits?

3. From the evidence you see on the map, how is the area where the cemetery is located different from downtown Boston? How might those differences have contributed to the decision to build a cemetery in that location?

4. Since the automobile was not invented until the last decade of the 19th century, and a public horse-drawn trolley to Mount Auburn was not established until the 1840s, how might a resident of Boston have traveled to Mount Auburn in the first decade after its founding in 1831?

Locating the Site

Map 2: Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1847.



(From James Smillie's Mount Auburn Illustrated in Finely Drawn Line Engravings. *Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery.)*

The roads and paths of Mount Auburn Cemetery were laid out in a pattern designed to complement the natural, picturesque beauty of the rugged, wooded site. Early monuments were scattered widely throughout the rather dense, native forest growth, in stark contrast to the barren, flat, unplanted burying grounds of the inner city.

Questions for Map 2

1. Based on the map, what features made Mount Auburn Cemetery such a desirable place to visit? What might the shaded areas represent?

2. If you were standing on the top of the hill labeled "Mount Auburn" in the southern section of the site, what would be the shortest path to reach the Entrance at the far north edge of the site?

Determining the Facts

Reading 1: The Founding Vision--A "Garden of Graves"

Bostonians' dissatisfaction with the burial grounds of their city led the Massachusetts General Court, in 1810, to grant the town authority to regulate burials more closely. The following year, the town ordered the disinterment of many remains in old graves to reclaim space for future burials. This was not an uncommon practice in cities at that time. However, many Bostonians saw the act as a desecration of the memory of their ancestors and looked for other solutions to the problem.

The idea of a burial ground outside Boston had been discussed informally for several years, but Dr. Jacob Bigelow, a Boston physician and Harvard professor, was the first to take action. In 1825 he called a meeting of prominent Bostonians to explore the concept of a rural cemetery, a place beyond the city limits composed of burial lots interspersed with trees, shrubs, and flowers. The rural cemetery was to be a place for the living, as well as the dead, where family values and the endurance of the family would be celebrated, and nature would provide comfort and inspiration. It would be designed to be an example of the best in landscape and artistic taste.

In 1831, a committee of the newly formed Massachusetts Horticultural Society formally undertook the venture of founding the cemetery, using a 72-acre piece of property four miles west of Boston on the Cambridge-Watertown line. The Watertown family, who owned the land for decades, had cleared and farmed level areas nearby but allowed the trees of the rugged area to grow to maturity. Another attractive feature was that the topography of the land was varied; it included a network of ponds and wetlands and a mature forest of native pines, oaks, and beeches that created a place of special rural beauty. The spot was a popular retreat for Harvard College students and local residents. The students had nicknamed it "Sweet Auburn" after a town popularized in a poem by Oliver Goldsmith, "The Deserted Village." This poetic nickname inspired the name for the tallest hill at the site—Mount Auburn—and gave the cemetery its name as well.

The Mount Auburn Cemetery was formally dedicated on September 24, 1831. More than 2,000 people journeyed out from Boston on foot and by carriage to meet in a deep dell, a natural amphitheater, at the cemetery for the consecration ceremony. Joseph Story, Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court, spoke at the ceremony:

A rural Cemetery seems to combine in itself all the advantages, which can be proposed to gratify human feelings, or tranquilize human fears,...And what spot can be more appropriate than this, for such a purpose? Nature seems to point it out...as the favorite retirement for the dead. There are around us all the varied features of her beauty and grandeur—the forest-crowned height;...the grassy glade; and the silent grove. Here are the lofty oak, the beech,...the rustling pine, and the drooping willow;—the tree, that sheds its pale leaves with every autumn, a fit emblem of our own transitory bloom; and the evergreen, with its perennial shoots, instructing us, that "the wintry blast of death kills not the buds of virtue".... All around us there breathes a solemn calm, as if we were in the bosom of a wilderness, broken only by the breeze as it murmurs through the tops of the forest, or by the notes of the warbler pouring forth his matin or his evening song.

Ascend but a few steps, and what a change of scenery to surprise and delight us. We seem, as it were in an instant, to pass from the confines of death, to the bright and balmy regions of life. Below us flows the winding Charles [River] with its rippling current, like the stream of time hastening to the ocean of eternity. In the distance, the City,—at once the object of our admiration and our love,—rears...its lofty towers, its graceful mansions, its curling smoke, its crowded haunts of business and pleasure....

We stand, as it were, upon the borders of two worlds; and...we may gather lessons of profound wisdom by contrasting the one with the other, or indulge in the dreams of hope and ambition, or solace our hearts by melancholy meditations.

The voice of consolation will spring up in the midst of the silences of these regions of death.... The hand of friendship will delight to cherish the flowers, and the shrubs, that fringe the lowly grave, or the sculptured monument.... Spring will invite thither the footsteps of the young by its opening foliage; and Autumn detain the contemplative....

Here let us erect the memorials of our love, and our gratitude, and our glory.[1]

The *Boston Courier* newspaper, reporting on the dedication of Mount Auburn, remarked, "[Mount Auburn] has now become holy ground and...will soon be a place of more general resort, both for ourselves and for strangers, than any other spot in the vicinity...."

Questions for Reading 1

1. Who started Mount Auburn Cemetery? When? How was its founding celebrated?

2. Where was the new cemetery located?

3. What did Joseph Story praise about the site? What do you think he meant when he said, "We stand, as it were, upon the borders of two worlds"?

Reading 1 was compiled from Jacob Bigelow, A History of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn *(Boston: James Munroe and Company, 1860); Kenneth T. Jackson and Camilo J. Vergara,* Silent Cities: The Evolution of the American Cemetery *(New York: Princeton Architectural Press, 1989); Blanche Linden-Ward,* Silent City on a Hill: Landscapes of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery *(Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1989); David Charles Sloane,* The Last Great Necessity: Cemeteries in American History *(Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1991); and David Stannard, ed.,* Death in America *(Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1975).*

[1] *Jacob Bigelow,* A History of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn *(Boston: James Munroe and Co., 1860).*

Determining the Facts

Reading 2: The Landscape--Art and Nature.

Gen. Henry A. S. Dearborn, President of the Horticultural Society, took primary responsibility for laying out the landscape of the new cemetery in 1831 and 1832. He sent to Europe for books and maps illustrating and describing the landscapes of English gardens as well as Père-Lachaise Cemetery, a burial ground established in 1804 outside Paris which combined a pleasant site with artistically distinguished monuments. With the assistance of a surveyor and a committee of learned Bostonians, Dearborn laid out the roads and paths following the natural features of the land, naming them after trees and plants. He established an experimental garden where the latest varieties of fruits, flowers, and vegetables as well as exotic specimens were cultivated for demonstration. More than 1,300 trees were planted in the 1830s, creating the framework for the later arboretum. In 1835, the Mount Auburn Cemetery and the Horticultural Society separated and Mount Auburn became the private non-profit corporation it remains today.

Early descriptions of the site stressed the beauty of the natural landscape and the need for only slight embellishment. The nature that was valued by Mount Auburn's founders was a civilized landscape, enhanced by subtle manipulation of the hand of man. It was based upon English 18th-century ideals of scenery--a pastoral or domesticated landscape rather than a sublime wilderness. An observer in 1831 recorded:

> The tract of land which received the name of Mount Auburn, is situated on...the main road leading from Cambridge to Watertown,...Its distance from Boston is about four miles.... The inner portion, which is set apart for the purposes of a Cemetery, is covered throughout most of its extent with a vigorous growth of forest trees, many of them of a large size, and comprising an unusual variety of kinds. This tract is beautifully undulating in its surface, containing a number of bold eminences, steep acclivities, and deep shadowy valleys. A remarkable natural ridge with a level surface runs through the ground from the south-east to north-west, and has for many years been known as a secluded and favorite walk. The principal eminence, called Mount Auburn in the plan, is one hundred and twenty-five feet above the level of the Charles River, and commands from its summit one of the finest prospects which can be obtained in the environs of Boston. Country seats and cottages seen in various directions,...add much to the picturesque effect of the scene.

> The grounds of the Cemetery have been laid out with intersecting avenues, so as to render every part of the woods accessible. These avenues are curved and variously winding in their course, so as to be adapted to the natural inequalities of the surface. By this arrangement, the greatest economy of the land is produced, combining at the same time the picturesque effect of landscape gardening.... Lots of ground, containing each three hundred square feet, are set off, as family burial places, at suitable distances on the sides of the avenues and paths.... It is confidently expected that many of the proprietors will, without delay, proceed to erect upon their lots such monuments and appropriate structures as will give to the place a part of the solemnity and beauty which it is destined ultimately to acquire.[1]

The first burial took place in July 1832, and within a few years hundreds of family lots and single graves were sold, and many monuments and tombs were erected. Some families purchased large lots and built expensive memorials; other people were buried in single graves with simple markers.

Questions for Reading 2

1. What did the founders of Mount Auburn Cemetery use for inspiration?

2. How was the landscape first changed after the cemetery was founded?

3. What elements of the landscape were mentioned as very important?

4. Why do you think the views from the highest hills of the cemetery were important?

Reading 2 was compiled from John Dixon Hunt and Peter Willis, editors, The Genius of the Place: The English Landscape Garden, 1620-1820 *(Cambridge, Mass.: The MIT Press, 1988); Walter T. Punch, ed.,* Keeping Eden: A History of Gardening in America *(Boston: Little, Brown and Company, 1992); and Jacob Bigelow,* A History of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn *(Boston: James Munroe and Company, 1860).*

[1]*Jacob Bigelow,* A History of the Cemetery of Mount Auburn *(Boston: James Munroe and Co., 1860).*

Determining the Facts

Reading 3: A Place for the Living--Leisure, Learning, and Mourning

Mount Auburn Cemetery became a sightseeing destination as thousands of visitors from Europe and other American cities roamed its winding paths and wrote about its attractions. Many visitors were so impressed by the beauty and many features of the place that they returned home intent on creating similar cemeteries. Within 15 years, nine major cemeteries were patterned after Mount Auburn: Laurel Hill in Philadelphia (1836); Green-Wood in Brooklyn, Mount Hope in Rochester, and Green Mount in Baltimore (1838); Albany Rural in Albany (1841); Allegheny in Pittsburgh, and Spring Grove in Cincinnati (1844); and Elmwood in Detroit and Swan Point in Providence (1846). By 1849, the Auburn model had reached the Mississippi River (Bellefontaine in St. Louis), and by 1863, the west coast (Mountain View in Oakland). Closer to home, Mount Auburn inspired the spread of rural cemeteries throughout New England in the 1840s and 1850s. The rural cemetery concept had clearly struck a chord that vibrated throughout the nation.

Mount Auburn Cemetery provided its visitors passive, educational recreation. Couples frequented the cemetery for courtship walks. Visitors were thrilled by the beauty and mystery of the landscape and intrigued by the emotional verses and images engraved on the monuments. Teachers urged youth to visit the cemetery to learn from the praise-worthy lives of heroes buried there and to gain goals for their own lives.

Many people went to Mount Auburn simply to find relief from the increasingly hectic life of the growing city. Others came as tourists, having heard that a walk through Mount Auburn Cemetery was an indispensable part of a visit to Boston. According to the *American Cyclopaedia of Useful Knowledge* (1835), the cemetery was "justly celebrated as the most interesting object of the kind in our country." Mount Auburn's appeal in the early 19th century was not unlike the appeal to people today of contemporary museums, public parks, amusement parks, or even malls. Numerous guidebooks provided maps, suggested tour routes and descriptions of individual monuments, and provided appropriate contemplative and spiritual readings. As early as 1845, an omnibus provided direct access from Boston. In 1847, the Fitchburg Railroad established a station at Mount Auburn; after 1856, the street railway stopped at the front gate.

Observers both famous and obscure recorded their impressions after visiting Mount Auburn Cemetery. In 1831, Lydia Maria Francis Child wrote in *The Mother's Book*, "So important do I consider cheerful associations with death, that

I wish to see our grave-yards laid out with walks and trees, and beautiful shrubs, as places of public promenade. We ought not to draw such a line of separation between those who are living in this world, and those who are alive in another." Harriet Martineau enthused in her multivolume *Retrospect of Western Travel* in 1838, "I believe it is allowed that Mount Auburn is the most beautiful cemetery in the world."

A letter written by then 16-year-old Emily Dickinson to a school friend on September 8, 1846, captures the future poet's impression of Mount Auburn:

> ...Have you ever been to Mount Auburn? It seems as if Nature had formed the spot with a distinct idea in view of its being a resting place for her children, where wearied & disappointed they might stretch themselves beneath the spreading cypress & close their eyes "calmly as to a nights repose or flowers at set of sun."[1]

As Mount Auburn Cemetery continued to mature, Andrew Jackson Downing mused about its impact on the country and the potential for recreation parks in *The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste* of July 1849:

> One of the most remarkable illustrations of the popular taste, in this country, is to be found in the rise and progress of our rural cemeteries. Twenty years ago, nothing better than a common grave-yard, filled with high grass, and a chance sprinkling of weeds and thistles, was to be found in the Union.... Eighteen years ago, Mount Auburn, about six miles from Boston, was made a rural cemetery. It was then a charming natural site, finely varied in surface, containing about 80 acres of land, and admirably clothed by groups and masses of native forest trees. It was tastefully laid out, monuments were built, and whole highly embellished. No sooner was attention generally roused to the charms of this place than the idea of rural cemeteries took the public mind by storm.... Not twenty years have passed since that time; and, at the present moment, there is scarcely a city of note in the whole country that has not its rural cemetery.... If the road to Mount Auburn is now lined with coaches, continually carrying the inhabitants of Boston by thousands and tens of thousands, is it not likely that such a garden, full of the most varied instruction, amusement, and recreation, would be ten times more visited?[2]

Questions for Reading 3

1. Where were other cemeteries modeled after Mount Auburn started in the 1800s?

2. Name some of the visitors to Mount Auburn Cemetery? Why did they visit?

3. According to Andrew Jackson Downing, what impact did Mount Auburn Cemetery have on the country?

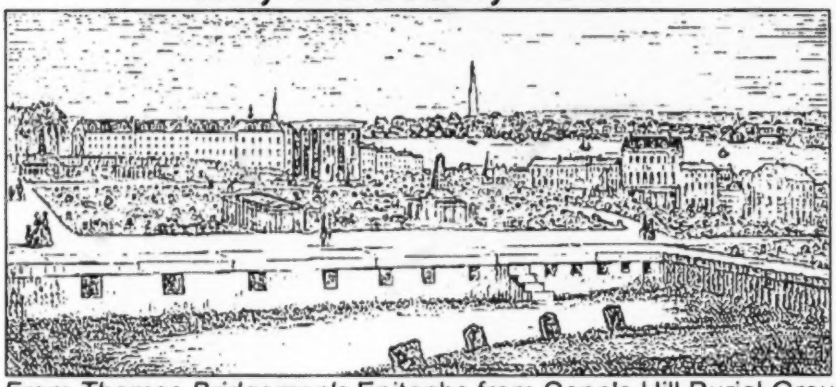
4. Where do you go to spend your leisure time? Do you look for the same things as 19th-century visitors to Mount Auburn?

Reading 3 was compiled from Karen Halttune, Confidence Men and Painted Women: A Study of Middle-Class Culture in America, 1830-1870 *(New Haven: Yale University Press, 1982); Blanche Linden-Ward, "Strange but Genteel Pleasure Grounds: Tourist and Leisure Uses of Nineteenth-Century Rural Cemeteries," In* Cemeteries and Gravemarkers: Voices of American Culture, *edited by Richard E. Meyer (Ann Arbor: U.M.I. Research Press, 1989); David Schuyler,* The New Urban Landscape: The Redefinition of City Form in Nineteenth-Century America *(Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986); John F. Sears,* Sacred Places: American Tourist Attractions in the Nineteenth Century *(New York: Oxford University Press, 1989); and Cynthia Zaitzevsky,* Frederick Law Olmsted and the Boston Park System *(Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 1982).*

[1]*Letter from Emily Dickinson to a schoolfriend, September 8, 1846, Thomas H. Johnson, ed.,* Emily Dickinson Selected Letters *(Cambridge, Mass.: The Belknap Press, 1971), 7-8.*
[2]*Andrew Jackson Downing,* The Horticulturist and Journal of Rural Art and Rural Taste, *vol. 4, no. 1, July 1849.*

Visual Evidence

Drawing 1: Engraved view of Copp's Hill, Boston, 1851.



(From Thomas Bridgeman's Epitaphs from Copp's Hill Burial Ground. *Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)*

As early as the 1730s, Boston's three original burial grounds--Copp's Hill, King's Chapel, and the Old Granary--became so crowded that new burials were often made four-deep or in small, common trenches. Parts of old coffins and bones sometimes were unearthed when new burials were made in common or family tombs.[1]

Drawing 2: Engraved view of Lowell Lot, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1847.

(From James Smillie's Mount Auburn Illustrated in Finely Drawn Line Engravings. *Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)*

Questions for Drawings 1 & 2

1. Compare Drawings 1 and 2. What is the same? What is different? What words would you use to describe each of the engravings?

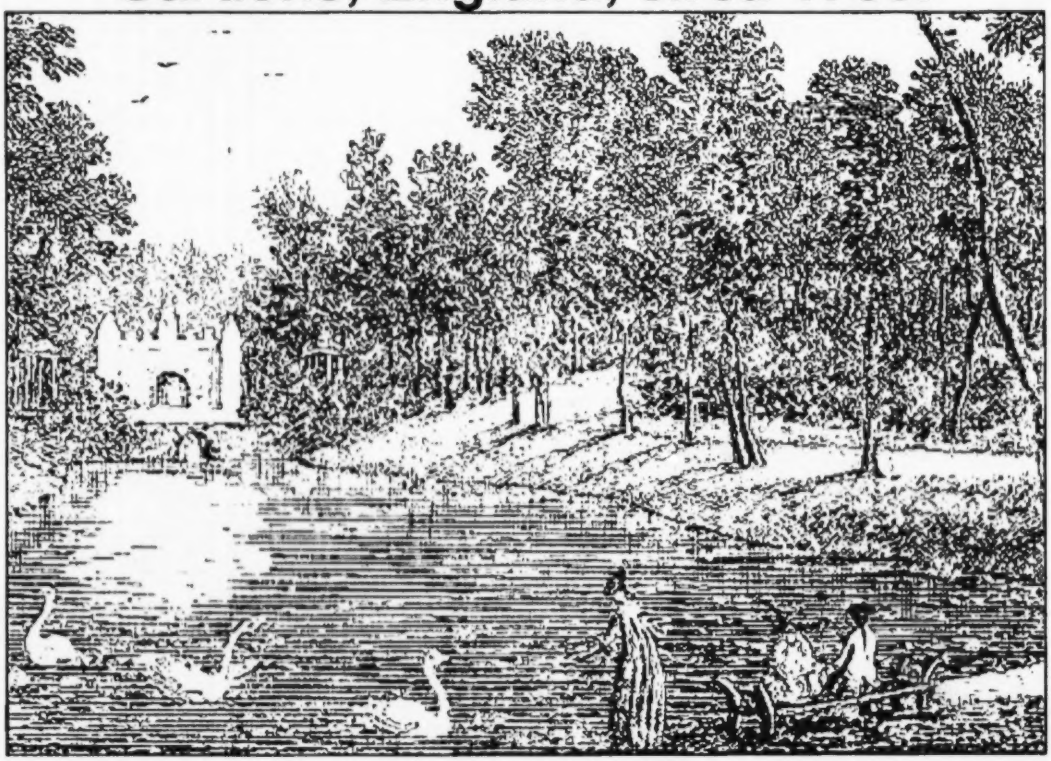
2. What do you think the people in Drawing 2 are doing?

3. Imagine you were the older person depicted in Drawing 2, the 1847 engraving. What do you think you would have been saying to your young companion?

[1]*Blanche Linden-Ward,* Silent City on a Hill: Landscape of Memory and Boston's Mount Auburn Cemetery *(Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 1989), 150.*

Visual Evidence

Drawing 3: Engraved view of Stow Gardens, England, circa 1760.



(Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)

Drawing 3 depicts a typical English picturesque landscape.

Drawing 4: Engraved view of Gossler Lot, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1847.

(From James Smillie's Mount Auburn Illustrated in Finely Drawn Line Engravings. *Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)*

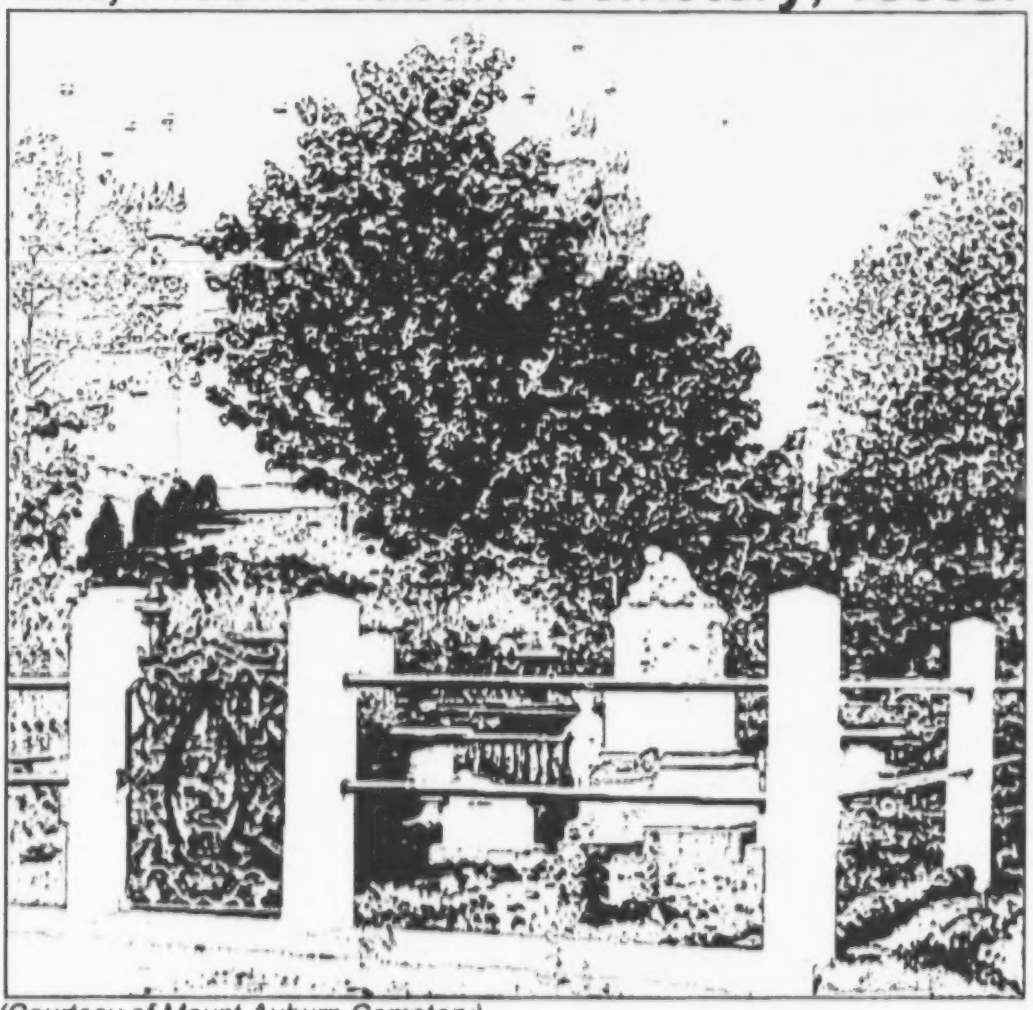
Questions for Drawings 3 & 4

1. Study Drawing 3 and Drawing 4. Do you think the landscape of the new cemetery (Drawing 4) successfully captured the same feelings that the English landscape (Drawing 3) embodied? Explain your answer.

2. Which do you feel are more prominent in Drawing 4, the trees or the tombs? Why would the designers of Mount Auburn Cemetery have wanted this to be the case?

Visual Evidence

Photo 1: Stereographic view of Jones Lot, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1860s.

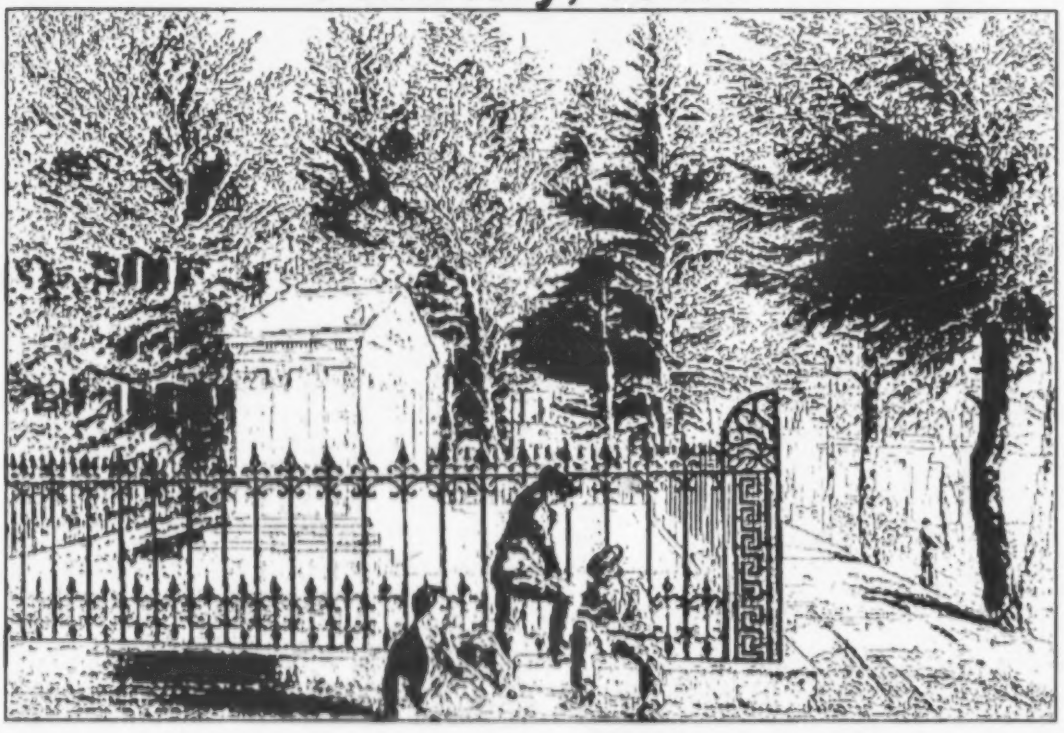


(Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)

The Joneses had embellished their lot with additional furnishings, much as they had decorated their home.

Visual Evidence

Drawing 5: Engraved view of Appleton Lot, Mount Auburn Cemetery, 1847.



(From James Smillie's Mount Auburn Illustrated in Finely Drawn Line Engravings. *Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)*

Visual Evidence
Drawing 6: Mount Auburn guide book, 1856.

DEARBORN'S

GUIDE THROUGH MOUNT AUBURN,

WITH

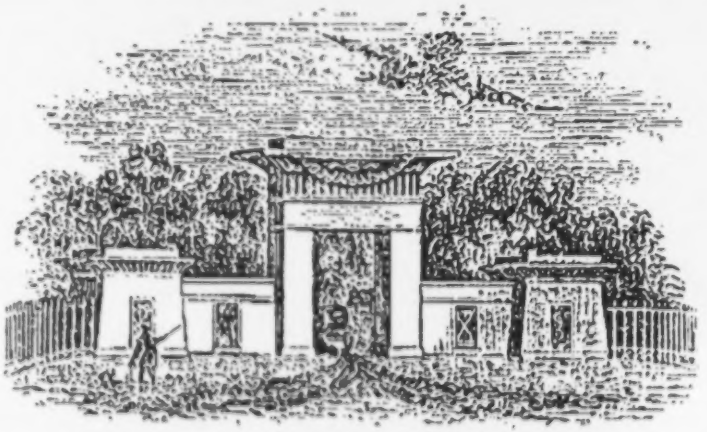
SEVENTY-SIX ENGRAVINGS,

FOR THE

BENEFIT OF STRANGERS,

DESIROUS OF SEEING THE CLUSTERS OF MONUMENTS WITH THE LEAST TROUBLE;

With the established rules for the preservation of the Cemetery, purchase of Lots, and other concerns.



WITH AN

ENGRAVED PLAN OF THE CEMETERY.

TENTH EDITION.

PUBLISHED BY NATHANIEL S. DEARBORN,
No. 24 School Street,
BOSTON.
1856.

PRICE TWENTY-FIVE CENTS.

(Courtesy of Mount Auburn Cemetery)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Questions for Photo 1 and Drawings 5 & 6

1. What objects do you see in Photo 1, and what would they have been used for?

2. What do the people in Drawing 5 appear to be doing? Are they paying any attention to the monument? What does this indicate about how people used the cemetery?

3. Can you identify the architectural style of the monument in Drawing 5? (Use additional sources to find out if you're not sure.)

4. Study Drawing 6. Can you identify the architectural style of the entrance gate? (Use additional sources to find out if you're not sure.) Why might they have chosen that style?

5. What does the guide book cover tell you about some of the people who wanted to visit Mount Auburn? What edition is the guide book? What does this indicate about the popularity of the cemetery? How is this book similar to modern vacation guides?

6. After having seen Drawings 5 and 6, who do you think might visit the Jones Lot in Photo 1?

Putting It All Together

The following activities will help students discover the history of a cemetery in their community and how it compares to Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Activity 1: Map Mania

1. Using an enlarged copy of Map 2, the site map (the bigger the better), cut the map into 16 square pieces of roughly equal size.

2. Mix, and then have students draw pieces. Instruct them to try to piece the map back together.

3. Discuss as a class the clues they used to put the map back together. What made the task difficult? What made it easy? Would they describe the circulation system in Mount Auburn Cemetery as simple or complex?

Activity 2: Location is Everything

Ask students to identify the location of a local cemetery on a map of their community. Is the cemetery near the center of town, or is it near the edge? Then coordinate with your local library or historical society to arrange for students to see maps that show the location of the cemetery. Ask students to describe what the surrounding area looked like when the cemetery was first created. Why was the cemetery built in that location? Has the area around the cemetery changed substantially since it was founded?

Students may conduct additional research for substantiating evidence at your local town hall, library, or historical society. They might share their findings by writing an essay or article that compares the founding of your local cemetery with the founding of Mount Auburn Cemetery or making an exhibit comparing and contrasting the local cemetery with Mount Auburn Cemetery.

Activity 3: Observing the Landscape

Arrange for students to visit a local landscape, either a cemetery or park, and ask them to:

- Compare the landscape of their local park or cemetery with that of Mount Auburn Cemetery. In what ways are they similar or different? In what ways is the overall plan similar to or different from Mount Auburn Cemetery?
- Identify how people of their community use this landscape. How do they seem to feel about it?

- Assess their emotional reaction to the landscape of their local cemetery and explain why they have that feeling.

Students may describe their experience either by writing about it or creating a graphic representation of it (drawing, painting, photograph, or collage.)

Mount Auburn Cemetery: A New American Landscape-- Supplementary Resources

By looking at *Mount Auburn Cemetery: A New American Landscape*, students will learn about revolutionary changes in American landscape design and funerary practices that took place in the early 19th century. Those interested in learning more will find that the Internet offers a variety of interesting materials.

National Park Service (NPS) Historic Landscape Initiative
http://www2.cr.nps.gov/hli/
Learn more about the National Park Service (NPS) Historic Landscape Initiative. This program promotes responsible preservation practices that protect our nation's irreplaceable legacy--designed landscapes such as parks and gardens, as well as vernacular historic landscapes such as farms and industrial sites.

Boston National Historical Park http://www.nps.gov/bost/freedom_trail.htm
Boston National Historical Park is a unit of the National Park System. Visit the park's Web pages for the virtual Freedom Trail tour that shows the Granary, King's Chapel, and Copp's Hill burying grounds today.

Arnold Arboretum http://www.arboretum.harvard.edu/
The landscape and design at Mount Auburn Cemetery by the Massachusetts Horticultural Society helped to pave the way for Charles Sprague Sargent and Frederick Law Olmsted in their creation of the Arnold Arboretum, part of Boston City Park's Emerald Necklace.

Making of America http://cdl.library.cornell.edu/moa/
The Making of America site by Cornell University features a digital library of primary sources in American social history from the antebellum period through reconstruction. Included on the web site are images of many sources featuring and discussing Mount Auburn Cemetery, including a journal that printed Joseph Story's speech at the dedication of the cemetery.

Library of Congress: Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS)/ Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) Collection
http://memory.loc.gov/ammem/hhhtml/hhhome.html
Search the HABS/HAER collection for detailed drawings, photographs, and documentation from their architectural survey of Mount Auburn Cemetery. HABS/HAER is a division of the National Park Service.

The GraveNet Project http://www.edutel.org/gravenet/gravenet.html

The GraveNet project gives students an opportunity to investigate the rich historical value of their community within their local cemeteries. They provide activities that encourage students to study the art, language, and symbolism that is found on older tombstones. Included on the website are numerous links to other online resources dealing with cemeteries.

U.S. Department of Education
Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)
National Library of Education (NLE)
Educational Resources Information Center (ERIC)

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